THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.C. THOMAS): The Election and Other Related Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2003, introduced in the Lok Sabha on 13.3.2003, which has *inter alia*, also taken into consideration the recommendations of the Committee on State Funding of Elections (Indrajit Gupta Committee) was passed by the Lok Sabha on 30.7.2003 and the Rajya Sabha on 4.8.2003.

Amendments in law of evidence

2338. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to bring forward a legislation for making amendments in the law of evidence;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when the proposed legislation is likely to be put in place?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.C. THOMAS): (a) and (c) The Law Commission of India has recently given a detailed report to amend the Indian Evidence Act, 1872. The said report of the Law Commission has been laid on the table of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha on 1st and 4th August, 2003 respectively. However, no decision has been taken by the Government to amend the Indian Evidence Act, 1872.

(d) The Government would need to consider the report of the Law Commission in consultation with State Governments/Union territory Administrations.

Issuance of succession certificate

†2339. SHRI DUTTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the existing rules in vogue in the court of law for the issuance of succession certificate;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether in such cases on the payment of court fee based on assessment, succession certificate is not legally required, yet the same is called for; and

(c) if so, the details of the rules in vogue for the issuance of succession certificate and the remedial steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.C. THOMAS): (a) and (c) A succession certificate may be granted under the Indian Succession Act, 1925 to any person claiming to be entitled to the effects of a deceased person with respect to any debt or security. A detailed procedure for application and grant of succession certificate has been laid down in Part X of the Indian Succession Act, 1925.

(b) No, Sir. Section 379 of the Indian Succession Act, 1925 provides that every application for a succession certificate or for its extension shall be accompanied by a deposit of sum equal to the fee payable under the Court-fees Act, 1870.

Setting up of family courts

2340. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) since enactment of the Family Courts' Act 1984, how many family courts are operational, State-wise;

(b) the funding process for setting up of the family courts;

(c) whether against a target of 15 family courts, the NCT of Delhi does not have even a single such court operative as on today; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.C. THOMAS): (a) 123 Family Courts have been set up in various parts of the country since enactment of the Family Courts Act, 1984. A Statement indicating State-wise details of Family Courts set up is enclosed. (*See* below)

(b) The Central Government provides 50% of the estimated expenditure to the State Governments for setting up of the Family Courts.